

<p>FACT SHEET</p> <p>AB 1013 (Assembly Member Block):</p> <p>Corrections: Veteran Inmates</p>
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SUMMARY

AB 1013 will require the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to conduct an interdisciplinary assessment of new inmates who have combat experience with the United States military, or are on active duty, reserve, or National Guard status, and to develop special treatment protocols for those inmates.

PROBLEM

Returning veterans from combat service in places like Iraq or Afghanistan often experience difficulty re-entering civilian life. The exposure to military combat can sometimes manifest itself in psychological disorders that if undiagnosed or untreated can have negative consequences.

CDCR does not verify veteran status of inmates at intake. As a result, it is not possible to assess the impact military service, particularly combat experience, has had on the inmate and the treatment necessary for disorders associated with service. Conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that soldiers may experience as a result of combat can be treated if they are identified and properly diagnosed. Failure to identify an inmate's veteran status can lead to inadequate assessments and inappropriate treatment.

SOLUTION

AB 1013 will require CDCR to evaluate inmates based upon their military status and develop treatment protocols based upon military experience. The information collected at the interdisciplinary assessment would supplement and confirm data collected prior to sentencing. Requiring CDCR to conduct interdisciplinary assessments of veteran inmates and to develop specialized treatment protocols for those with military experience are essential to veteran inmates rehabilitation.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Melissa Dye, Legislative Assistant
916/319-2078, Melissa.Dye@asm.ca.gov